The National Future Farmer

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The Yamaha Terrapro work be

Along with sweating, sore limbs and painfully long days.

Introducing the Yamaha Terrapro.™ The first ATV with something extra behind it. A rear-mounted PTO.

Or to be more specific, an ASAE standard, 1-inch, 2,000 rpm PTO which operates a variety of mowers and sprayers.

For example, our exclusive Terrapro System of mowers designed for Yamaha by Woods. They trim hours off your workday.

The Yamaha finish mower has three high-lift cutting blades that slice a full 48-inch swath over lawns, golf courses and grounds.

The Yamaha 42-inch rough-cut mower has an all-purpose rotary cutter that eats up grass, weeds and light brush. It has high-lift rotary blades and side discharge which keeps the mower clear for a better, faster cut.

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A Yamaha mower trims hours off your workday.

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Or what's below. Like the high-flotation tires that let you go out into the mud. And come back.

All of which proves that when it comes to helping you get your work done fast, we couldn't be more behind you.

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Van Zander, computer salesman and 1986 Computers in Agriculture winner, is making a name for himself in the Topeka, Kansas, business community. On the cover, Van explains the features of a new computer at Thoroughbred Computer Systems. Cover photo by Andrew Markwart.

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The Bottom Line

You will see a few changes in this issue of your magazine. A new design for the department heads, different type for photo captions, subheads to articles and the like—even a new title for this column.

We hope you will agree that the changes give the magazine a fresh look and make it more readable—yet holds on to enough of the old to let you know you are still reading *The National FUTURE FARMER.*

Thanks to Associate Editor Andy Markwart who has given the new look a considerable amount of time and study and to Senior Editor Jack Pitzer who worked with Andy in producing the final product.

A two-week period in July will be a busy time for FFA at the national level. It begins with a meeting of the National Board of Directors and National FFA Officers, July 20-23; the Alumni Council meeting, July 21-23; the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, July 24; the Washington Conference Program for State FFA Presidents, July 27-31; the National Workshop for State FFA Alumni Presidents, July 27-31 and the National Workshop for State Leaders (in Agricultural Education), July 27-31. All these groups will have a major role in helping chart the course for FFA in the years ahead.

A belated welcome to the National Young Farmers Educational Association and the Executive Director Wayne Sprick as they settle in at The Center. Having new neighbors down the hall will offer many opportunities for cooperaton between the two organizations and will also improve communications with this important group in the Agricultural Education community. In the long run, we think this will help agriculture and the FFA. And that is the bottom line.

Wilson Carnes

AIM HIGH

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Mailbag

Hometowners

I am writing in response to the article "...And Report Back to You, Mr. President" (April-May, 1987). Being from the same chapter as Kevin Eblen, I would have to agree with what he has pointed out in the article.

Terry Freeman
Creston, Iowa

Sharing Across the Sea

I am writing in response to the article "A Good Case for Japan" in the last issue. You did a wonderful job on the article. I think it is so great that we can work together and share our plans and hopes.

Chance Jobe
Romance, Arkansas

I am writing to you to make a comment on "A Good Case for Japan" because I think every person should know about what's going on all over the world. It was a very good article.

Barbara Barts
Roxboro, North Carolina

Entrepreneurship

I am writing about the article "Big Dreams, Big Business" in the April-May issue. I liked how he (the teacher) has made his students better prepared for life after school and how he has taught management skills in big business.

George Jensen
Fontanelle, Iowa

I liked the article "Big Dreams, Big Business." If you don't have a dream, you can never reach the goal you set. My goal is trying harder and learning more about FFA.

Kim Wilkins
Water Valley, Mississippi

We received *The National FUTURE FARMER* issue with "Big Dreams, Big Business." The students and I appreciate your interest and support for our pilot program. As you can imagine our FFA members were thrilled to appear in a national magazine article. Hopefully, other members and instructors were introduced to curriculum that will challenge them. As a result of "Big Dreams, Big Business" other publicity may follow. Thanks.

Donald Connelly
Russiaville, Indiana

Epcot a Hit

I really enjoyed the article "Listen to the Land." The Epcot Center is a place where people can go to see people and architecture from other continents collected in one community.

Michael Reese
Birmingham, Alabama

I really like the April-May issue, especially the story written about our land, "Listen to the Land."

Joe Hornback
Upton, Kentucky

Applause, applause

I think *The National FUTURE FARMER* is one of the best farm magazines I have ever read. Even my folks enjoy reading it. I hope you continue publishing it for many years.

Kevin Mott
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

I am writing to commend you on the relevance and quality of the February-March, 1987, issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. The articles pertaining to agriscience, remote crop sensing, emerging agricultural jobs, specialty crop, human interest, recreation and safety are "on target." I believe this issue of the magazine was on the cutting edge of new developments in vocational education in agriculture and the FFA.

David L. Williams
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa

I was very pleasantly surprised to see the cover photo (February-March issue) dealing with the teaching of tissue culture to students in high school vocational agriculture programs. The teacher, and his administrators, are to be congratulated for helping students learn this technology which has already found application at the farm and grower levels. Congratulations to you and the magazine staff for helping keep teachers and others aware of new technology which has application in the vocational agriculture programs.

O. Donald Meaders
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Please tell me when my subscription is due again because I don't want to miss an issue.

Bradley Carlson
Billings, Montana

You're Never Too Young

We farm too, and love it. I am 9 years old and my brother is 5. We heard about the magazine for FFA members. We're not far enough in school to have FFA, so please send us a subscription.

Dustin Galloway
Cassopolis, Michigan

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

Future Farmers of America

National FFA Center
5632 Mt Vernon Memorial Highway
P O Box 15160
Alexandria, Va 22309

Telephone (703) 360-3600
Telex 89 9121

A National Student Organization
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Integral Part of Instruction in
Vocational Agriculture

Dear Fellow FFA Members:

The FFA is in the process of evaluating the national Constitution and Bylaws. By doing so, we hope to be able to make any necessary modifications in those documents to reflect the changes currently taking place in agriculture and in the organization.

If we are to do a complete job, and if we are to be sure that the results really reflect the opinions of our members, we need your help. The survey below gives you the chance to tell us how you feel about the topics our Constitution and Bylaws Committee is considering. As you can see, the survey is short and should not take very much time to complete.

Please help out your national officers and the committee by completing the survey, and mailing it in as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

With our best wishes,

Your 1986-87 National Officers

The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine FFA Survey

Are you a _____ Vo-Ag Student _____ Teacher

_____ FFA Supporter (check one)

Highest degree held: (check one)

_____ None _____ Greenhand _____ Chapter Farmer

_____ State Farmer _____ American Farmer

State in which you live: _____

Size of community in which you live: (check one)

_____ Farm/Ranch _____ 1-500 _____ 501-1000

_____ 1001-3000 _____ 3001-6000 _____ 6001-9000

_____ 9001 or more

Circle SA if you Strongly Agree; A if you only Agree; D if you only Disagree; or SD if you Strongly Disagree with the following statements.

SA A D SD The FFA creed should be revised to reflect commitment to an industry broader than farming.

SA A D SD The office of President should *not* be a constitutional office.

SA A D SD The office of Vice President should *not* be a constitutional office.

SA A D SD The office of Secretary should *not* be a constitutional office.

SA A D SD The office of Treasurer should *not* be a constitutional office.

SA A D SD The office of Reporter should *not* be a constitutional office.

SA A D SD The office of Sentinel should *not* be a constitutional office.

SA A D SD The degree name "Greenhand" should be changed to somthing more appropriate.

SA A D SD The degree name "Chapter Farmer" should be changed to something more appropriate.

SA A D SD The degree name "State Farmer" should be changed to something more appropriate.

SA A D SD The degree name "American Farmer" should be changed to something more appropriate.

SA A D SD The letters FFA should replace the name Future Farmers of America in official ceremonies.

SA A D SD Current FFA degree names should not be changed.

SA A D SD Vo-ag enrollment requirements should be eliminated to increase membership in FFA.

SA A D SD FFA should continue to become more "high tech" and "science" oriented.

SA A D SD Vo-ag enrollment requirements for FFA membership should be increased to focus on assisting students with specific interest in agriculture.

SA A D SD Junior high students should be allowed to join FFA.

SA A D SD Monetary and work experience requirements for Chapter, State and American Farmer degrees should be increased.

Please attach any specific suggestions or viewpoints on a separate sheet and mail to:

FFA Survey
National FUTURE FARMER Magazine
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309

Magazine Staff

Editor-in-Chief, Wilson W. Carnes
Senior Editor, John M. Pitzer
Associate Editor, Andrew Markwart
Publishing Assistant, Jo Colley
Director of Advertising Glenn D. Luedke
Advertising Assistant, Joyce Berryman
Circulation Fulfillment Manager, Dottie M. Hinkle
Assistants,
Ada George, Janet Magill, Dottie Welzel, Yvonne Byrnes, Helen Daugherty, Harriett Fidd, Barbara Sells

National Officers

National President, Kevin Eblen, Route 4, Box 24, Creston, IA 50801; *National Secretary,* Kevin Yost, Route 2, Box 70, DeWitt, NE 68341; *National Vice Presidents,* Jones Loflin, P.O. Box 123, Denton, NC 27239; Daren Coppock, P.O. Box 92, Adams, OR 97810; Jayme Feary, Route 1, Box 125, Falkville, AL 35622; Dean Harder, Route 2, Box 227, Mountain Lake, MN 56159.

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Advertising Offices

ABC

The National FUTURE FARMER
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309 — 703-360-3600

The Brassett Company
5150 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036 — 213-802-2571

Lampert & Associates
P.O. Box 325
Western Springs, IL 60558 — 312-482-3993

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2655 South Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills MI 48013 — 313-335-5050

Robert Flahive Company
22 Battery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111 — 415-398-4444

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News In Brief

FFA Software Ready for IBM Computers

The American Farmer and Proficiency application software, formerly available for Apple and Radio Shack computers only, has been released for IBM personal computers. The software was released May 1, and is available through the FFA Supply Service for $79.95.

Malir, Morrison On Rural Development Council

Rick Malir, 1986 national FFA president, and Richard Morrison, 1966 western region vice president, have been named with 28 others to the Secretary of Agriculture's National Advisory Council on Rural Development. The committee advises the secretary on rural development activities and policies.

Malir is now a student at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Morrison is an attorney and cattle rancher and lives in Gilbert, Arizona.

Sheldon Attends Pork Congress

National FFA Swine Proficiency winner Eddie Sheldon, of Greencastle, Indiana, attended the American Pork Congress, March 3-5, through the sponsorship of the Agricultural Division of Pfizer Inc.

The Purdue University freshman toured the world's largest single commodity trade show, which featured the latest in swine and feed equipment, feeds, animal health care products, computer systems and many other swine industry services and products.

Attending the congress with Sheldon was his neighbor, National 4-H Swine Project Award winner Charlie Poynter, also from Greencastle.

Speakers Ready For 60th Convention

Roger Staubach, Lee Iacocca and Secretary William Bennett are all scheduled to address the 60th National FFA Convention on Thursday, November 12, in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach is scheduled to speak Thursday morning and U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett is slotted for the afternoon session. Lee Iacocca, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, is expected to pack the auditorium during Thursday's evening session. Iacocca will be appearing through the sponsorship of Chrysler as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

German Exchange Students Chosen

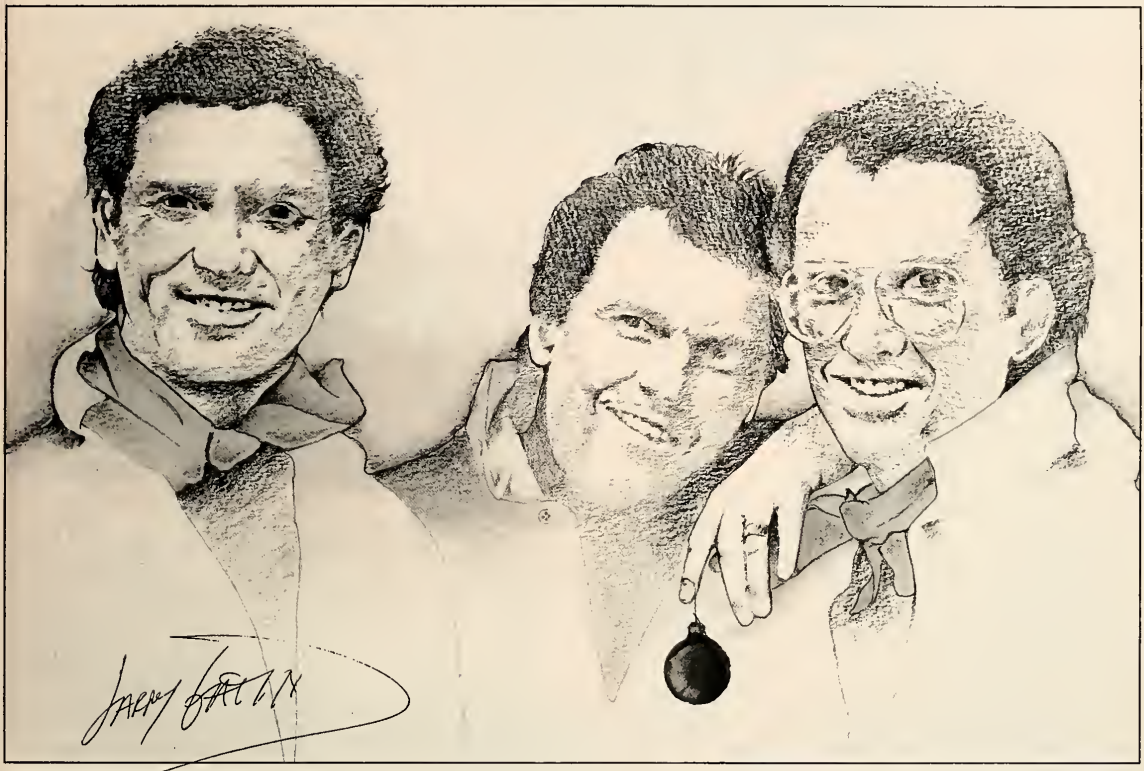
Fifteen students have received scholarships to participate in the year-long Congress-Bundestag exchange program to West Germany. This is the first year that FFA's International Department has participated in the program, sponsored by the United States Congress and the West German Bundestag (their parliament). The students were selected from a field of 78 applicants on the basis of agricultural background and knowledge, scholarship, personality and desire to participate in an overseas exchange.

The 15- to 18-year-old students will be attending a West German secondary school and will work with their host families during the summer months and after school. They will be enrolled in classes such as German language, agriculture and mathematics.

The students selected are: Susan Coughlin, Watertown, WI; Paula Barnhardt, Center, ND; Amberdawn Moore, Mesa, AZ; David Mareth, Monett, MO; Jill Johnson, Courtland, KS; Melissa Ward, Ceres, CA; Delea Symonds, Evans Mills, NY; Jeremy Deysher, Fleetwood, PA; Cecil Sowder, Sudan, TX; James Cloar, Paris, TN; Michael Simmons, Kettle Falls, WA; Brian Pine, Lawrence, KS; Kathleen Almond, Rio Oso, CA; Mark Franklin, Dandridge, TN; and Terri Stelzer, Willard, WI.

These students will depart after a week of orientation in Washington, D.C., and will fly to Munich, West Germany, July 31. The Congress-Bundestag Program will now operate in conjunction with FFA's new World AgriScience Study Program.

A GATLIN FAMILY CHRISTMAS



"I believe that if there were more young people in the FFA, there would be fewer young people in trouble. I've never spent a hungry day in my life, thanks to the hard-working farmers of America."

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Looking Ahead

$1 Million in Agriscience Scholarships Offered

Pointing to an urgent need for more agricultural science graduates, a new $1-million scholarship program is being funded with $640,000 from RJR Nabisco, Inc. and $320,000 from the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Institutions. The four-year, full-cost program will be launched with a minimum of 20 students entering college in the fall of 1988.

To be eligible, students must be U.S. citizens entering their first year of college, with a demonstrated interest in science and a combined Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1,200 or a score of 28 or higher on the American College Test. The selected RJR Nabisco National Scholars in Agriculture and the Life Sciences will be eligible to attend any of 74 participating colleges covering every state and U.S. territory.

The areas of study covered by the scholarships include animal science; agricultural and food economics, including marketing, business and management; agricultural engineering; biochemistry and related biological sciences; food science; nutrition; plant science; soil science; and renewable natural resources.

Free Films Explain Genetic Engineering

Genetic engineering is a complicated subject, so three companies involved with different areas of the science have produced films and videos for free loan to the public.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. has sponsored a film called "Biotechnology: Unlocking Nature's Secrets" (#18585). This 21-minute release takes much of the mystery out of the new biological techniques by having the scientists themselves explain their procedures in easy-to-understand terms.

Agricultural genetic engineering is explored in "Of the Earth: Agriculture and the New Biology" (#18991), sponsored by the Industrial Biotechnology Association. This film focuses on genetically engineered plants and microbes for agricultural use. Also discussed is past and present regulation of laboratory research and field testing.

Monsanto's 16-minute film, "Genetic Engineering: The Nature of Change" (#17375) explores the more broad-based application of genetic science in animal health, nutrition and human health care, as well as agriculture. A booklet is available with the film that covers the topic in greater detail.

All three features are available to the public on a free-loan basis in both 16mm film and VHS videocassette. Pioneer's program also can be requested in 3/4-inch cassette. To order, write to Modern Talking Picture Service, Scheduling Center, 5000 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709. Include the program's title, number, format and preferred viewing dates.

The Color of Orange

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientests at the Univeristy of Florida have found that color television may be an answer to many of their robotic fruit harvester problems. Until recently, only black and white cameras were used to identify oranges in the laboratory.

"Black and white systems can measure the size, shape, or brightness of an object," says David Slaughter, an ARS engineer, "but that's not going to help the automated harvesting of fruit, no matter how accurate the measurements are."

Slaughter says the theory worked well in the lab, but orchards are a tougher assignment. "In real orchards, sunlight and shadow can cause a lot of confusion. An orange in sunlight can read the same as a cloud, and an orange in the shade can appear as dull as a leaf in the sun." Small clouds, branches and leaves have fooled the black and white system.

Color television, on the other hand, can give quick and accurate readings that in no way depend on size, shape, or brightness; color is the only thing that matters.

"Our tests show that the color of an orange is enough for a harvester to go on," says Slaughter. "No other criteria are needed. The machine can readily recognize the right color and pick accordingly."

By programming a different color into the computer that runs the robot, it could recognize and harvest different types of fruit, provided the color isn't leaf green.

"Lemons we can find," says Slaughter, "limes we cannot."

Photo by Tim McCabe/USDA

Be Careful Out There

The 1986 edition of the National Safety Council's *Accident Facts* booklet showed that agricultural work in 1985 had an accident death rate of 49 per 100,000 workers. Disabling injuries occurred at a rate of more than 5,300 per 100,000. Only one industry exceeded agriculture's death rate: mining and quarrying, with 50 lives lost per 100,000.

Part of the reason for the high death and accident rates is that farmers work all kinds of hours; many of their days are extremely long and taxing, with little time for relaxation. In farming, there is a fatigue factor that has been engineered out of most other industrialized jobs.

Farmers also bring some of these mishaps on themselves. Indiana's Purdue University did a study of PTO shielding, and found that master shields were missing or inoperative on more than half of the tractors checked.

Selling America

Foreign landowners hold 12.4 million acres, or slightly less than 1 percent of privately U.S. agricultural land as of December 31, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. This was up 369,000 acres from the end of 1985.

Seventy percent of the foreign-held acreage is owned by citizens from the United Kingdom, West Germany, the Netherlands Antilles and Switzerland. The foreign buying trend is strongest in southern and western states.

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NFF

Lars' pride and joy: The Polynesian Hotel's atrium. *Photos by Author*

A Tropical Trade

Caring for Disney's largest tropical plant display is no Mickey Mouse responsibility.

By Andrew Markwart

LARS Pertwee is one of those guys you like right away. His broad smile and firm handshake are genuinely warm. His smooth British accent reveals a well-mannered confidence. He makes you feel right at home, even if you're a long way from it. That's an asset for Lars because he works at Florida's Walt Disney World, one of the most popular vacation spots in the world.

Disney World's home in Orlando, Florida, is an Atlantic Ocean away from Lars' hometown of Frinton-on-the-Sea, England, a small village in Essex County. He is in the United States on FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program and has worked at Disney since December 1 of last year.

Six days a week, Lars drives through the heart of Orlando just as the sun is rising to arrive at the Magic Kingdom by 6 a.m. He is one of only three people who care for all indoor plants at Walt Disney World. This "interiorscaping" crew installs and maintains indoor plants in offices, restaurants, hotels, the Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center.

Lars' main responsibility is the Polynesian Resort Hotel, where healthy

plant-life is crucial to its overall look and feel. The hotel is famous for its main entrance area, the atrium, where a tropical jungle display, towering over two stories high complete with waterfall, greets visitors and hotel guests. Lars alone is responsible for the atrium and it's his pride and joy.

The Atrium

"The atrium is a showcase. Outside the hotel, you need plants that can take the frost, cold weather, a lot of sun and wind," says Lars. "Inside you can use one-of-a-kind plants. We have a Kentia palm, which grows slowly, growing to the roof. You can't put a price on it, but it's certainly worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's irreplaceable. I didn't know what it was because I'd never seen one that big!"

The atrium, the largest and most elaborate interiorscape at Disney, displays over 75 different plant species. No less than 15 orchid plants are in bloom year-round in the atrium.

Lars says the real beauty of the atrium is that it is constantly growing, and therefore, continually changing. "You can come here different times in the year and you think everything looks just the same, but it isn't. All of the plants have probably been changed, the bedding is different, the colors are different—but it's consistently fantastic.

"It would be nice to leave a camera in one spot and take a picture every month and see how much changed in the landscape. It's always changing in subtle ways."

Specialty Experience

Of course, you don't walk into Walt Disney World and start working on delicate, priceless tropical plants without some experience first. Lars' interest in horticulture started early, watching his father operate one of England's larger horticulture companies. The idea of "combining art and design with growing plants" led him to major in landscape architecture at Birmingham Polytechnic College. He will resume classes there after returning home.

His work experience in the U.S. includes stops at Hermann Engleman Greenhouses, located just north of Orlando, and Tropical Ornamentals, a Palm Beach tropical plant supplier and exporter. It was at Tropical Ornamentals that Lars learned the plant exporting (and eventually importing) trade.

Because of England's cool, damp climate, few English horticulturists have ever worked with tropical plants. Working at Disney and the other Florida businesses will give Lars an edge on other landscape architects when he returns to his home in England.

"In a way, I'll be the expert when I get home—that's part of the reason I'm here. People (in England) won't have grown tropicals or know where to get them."—Lars Pertwee

"In a way, I'll be the expert when I get home—that's part of the reason I'm here. People (in England) won't have grown tropicals or know where to get them." says Lars. "In the States, I've learned to identify the different tropical plants, how they're grown at the nursery, how they're packed and shipped, and what is done with them when they get there."

Lars may put some of that knowledge to work when Euro-Disney is built in the early 1990s, but for now, he's just going to enjoy the Magic Kingdom in which he works.

"I'm driving at five in the morning down I-4 (freeway), I have a big smile on my face, the radio's on, and I think, 'Here I am, from a little town in Essex, England, driving to Disney World to work.' You couldn't really want anymore." •••

Lars has his hands full being only one of three people to care for all of Disney's indoor plants.

California Dreamin' in the Midwest

With leadership from two brothers from the West Coast, a large California-like vegetable farm now thrives in the middle of the Corn Belt.

Mark Teixeira (left) and brother Gary check ridges where broccoli and bell peppers will grow.

MARK and Gary Teixeira's (pronounced "Ta-shar-a") new Midwest neighbors didn't quite know what to think when these two young people moved in last year, hauling with them a strategically unique farming plan and sound advice from their folks back in Santa Maria, California.

After all, it's not every day two former FFA members find themselves in charge of a multi-thousand acre farm, let alone a grand experiment to start up a farm from scratch, raising and harvesting 2,000 acres of vegetable crops—smack-dab in the middle of the Corn Belt.

The Teixeira brothers operate the Riverside American farm, just outside of dusty Zeigler, Illinois, population 1,800. Mark, 23, and Gary, 25, split management chores between themselves. Gary takes care of ground preparation, fertilizer, planting and irrigation, while Mark takes care of harvest, cooling and office work.

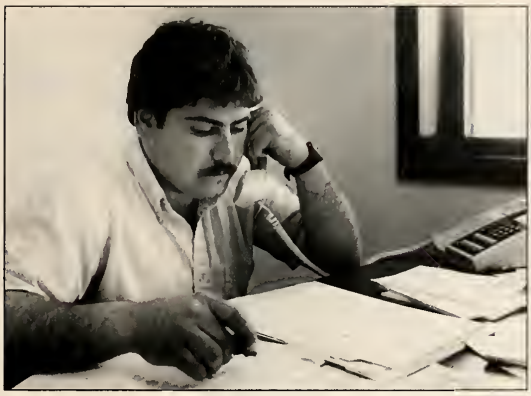
Although they may be new to the Midwest, neither are new to farming. The Teixeira brothers grew up in Santa Maria, California, where their family has long produced and processed vegetables for west coast markets. Gary and Mark are fifth generation farmers from a 2,500-acre ranch which specializes in vegetable production.

"Its all a gamble. Every time you plant a crop, you're rolling the dice."

The story of how the brothers ventured to the Midwest is a classic tale of entrepreneurship and it may be the start of a new trend in large-scale diversification there.

Successful management had been the key to the Teixeira ranch in Santa Maria. With success, expansion came naturally. Soon the farm began shipping its products nationwide. In 1985, when land prices were falling drastically in the Midwest, Gary and Mark's father Norman Teixeira, along with another partner, decided to purchase a 13,000-acre piece of land that had just come up for sale near Zeigler, Illinois. They reasoned that if their vegetable crops could be grown in the Midwest, closer to East Coast markets, it would cut down on shipping costs.

Growing the crops would be the tricky part and the Teixeiras knew it was a risky idea. Few, if any, farmers had tried to grow crops like broccoli and bell peppers on a large scale in the Midwest. But as farmers, the Teixeiras are accustomed to risky business. "It's all a gamble," Mark



Mark checks with the home office in Santa Maria, California.

says. "Every time you plant a crop you're rolling the dice," emphasizing the point by raising his hand and playfully tossing imaginary dice on the rocky ground.

After an unsuccessful attempt at hiring local personnel to manage the new ranch, Mr. Teixeira called on his two sons, Mark and Gary, to pack their bags and move to the Midwest. The brothers knew it would be no small task. Out of the total acreage, a whopping 10,000 are tillable, of which 4,000 are rented out to area farmers and the 2,000 acres Gary and Mark spend their time managing are planted to broccoli and bell peppers.

The brothers planted the remaining 4,000 acres in conventional crops like field corn and soybeans. For these acres, a local farmer acts as their adviser. "Gary and I have learned quite a bit about soybeans and corn," explains Mark.

From Field to Market

More likely, though, the locals had more to learn from Gary and Mark, as the brothers carefully managed the success of the farm's vegetable crops from planting to harvest and finally, shipping. After harvest, the product is sent to the "cooler," a refrigerating process and then inventoried. At the farm's office, a message is relayed to the California headquarters regarding the produce now on-hand. All sales arrangements are made in California, usually "booked" through one of several brokers. Orders are relayed back to the Zeigler office by computer.

After a market is secured, the California office arranges for transportation, calling on several semi-trucks to haul produce to destinations in New York, Wisconsin and other east coast markets. Currently, all produce is shipped immediately by truck to marketing points across the nation.

Since marketing is handled in California, Gary and Mark have spent the largest share of their management time this year setting up offices and continuing to adjust their farming skills to the Midwest's different climate and terrain.

Timely irrigation, a necessity for intense vegetable cropping, was one such consideration. Most of the farm's vegetable acreage is strategically located next to the twisting, murkey waters of the Big Muddy River, solving their irrigation needs.

Soil was another factor. "There's more clay in the soil here compared to home," says Mark. "We've had to learn to prepare the ground differently. You have more heat here in the summer, and rains come at different times. So we have to make adjustments in planting to compensate for that."

> ***"The things we learned in FFA —leadership, the ability to work with people, public speaking, bookkeeping—I use that every day in my work."***
>
> ***—Mark Teixeira.***

Another difference seemed to be more "cultural" than "agricultural." High volume vegetable production requires intense, meticulous care, compared to grain and soybean production. For example, cultivating bell peppers and broccoli requires careful knifing, close to the plant. Because of this precision, the vegetables are cultivated with four-row units on each tractor—unlike 6-, 8-, or 12-row cultivation of field corn. "It's been difficult to train people to be more cautious than what they're used to," Mark says.

Economic Growth

Before the Riverside American ranch moved in, Zeigler was a fairly quiet, slow-moving town. Once a bustling coal-mining community, it had fallen on some hard times when first mining, then agriculture and agribusiness, began to slide.

It isn't surprising then, that the new vegetable farm has turned its adopted community on end—often with positive results. Riverside American has provided a shot in the economic arm of the community, in the form of jobs and new business. The firm has purchased nearly all of its machinery and equipment, several thousands of dollars worth, from local dealers. The farm provides about 75-100 jobs in the field, from farm labor to mechanics.

The firm recently finished renovating Zeigler's old brick train depot into a modern, computerized office. This will be the farm's nerve center. With the help of an IBM computer system, farm accountants keep track of supply figures, sales orders and handle other record keeping and secretarial chores.

The office is big enough to staff 16 employees and Mark hopes to expand the building if other projects get off the ground.

Of course, it hasn't all been easy on the community. A lot of folks don't like changes, explains Mark. "It's different for them to come in and see such a large company," he adds. "But people now are starting to accept us."

FFA Provided Skills

"The things we learned in FFA—leadership, the ability to work with people, public speaking, bookkeeping—I use that every day in my work," says Mark. "Once you get that leadership ability behind you, you don't really worry about age."

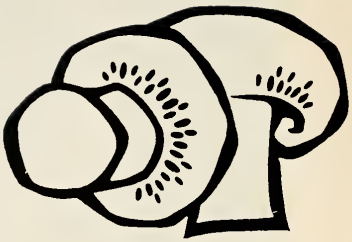
Mark and Gary both give credit to their former FFA advisors at Santa Maria, Jeff Jeffery and Del Peterson. Both young men served as chapter president and participated on several judging teams. Both earned their American Farmer degrees.

Those skills will help the Teixeiras and their town grow in the future. Zeigler is in for more economic growth if the Teixeiras build a large refrigeration system at the farm headquarters. It would enable the farm to contract with other local farmers to grow vegetables. The produce would be held in storage at Riverside American, until sold.

Besides the refrigeration project, they hope to soon build four 10-acre greenhouses on the ranch. Plant sales would operate out of Zeigler rather than Santa Maria.

Mark, what did your neighbors say when you moved in? "They thought we were crazy," laughs Mark. Crazy or not, it looks like the Midwest is in for more exciting changes—California style. •••

Mushroom Corporation Boosts Elkton Economy



FFA members take the lead in their community's road to recovery.

RESIDENTS of Elkton, South Dakota, a farming community of 650 people located one mile from the Minnesota border, decided not to wait for a new industry to discover their village. Instead, Elkton residents, with help from the local high school FFA chapter, tackled economic development by establishing a new agribusiness.

In December of 1985, Elkton residents invested more than $250,000 to form the Elkton Mushroom Corporation. During the corporation's first year in operation, Elkton's new agribusiness produced 1-1/4 million pounds of fresh mushrooms which contributed about $2 million to the local economy. The corporation's mushroom compost production facility and distribution center has 40 full-and part-time employees.

The FFA chapter funneled its resources into the project by building a model mushroom production facility at the high school, which serves as a demonstration site for the mushroom corporation. This was a major contribution to the success of the business because it helped teach residents how to grow mushrooms.

Today, the mushroom corporation has grown to include 91 independent growers from eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. The Elkton Mushroom Corporation distributes fresh mushrooms to metropolitan areas in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

According to Keith Kinner, a certified public accountant and the secretary/treasurer of the Elkton Mushroom Corporation, the market potential for fresh mushrooms in the Midwest is practically limitless. The corporation can sell as many mushrooms as local farmers and townspeople can produce.

"There's no question we could use more growers because of the demand for mushrooms," Kinner says. "Our distributors in the Twin Cities have requested that we triple our production to meet their demand, so that means we either have to triple our number of growers or our growers have to produce three times as many mushrooms. We are confident we can meet the demand because our current growers are becoming more efficient, and more people are setting up production buildings.

"Elkton and the mushroom corporation owe a great deal to the FFA chapter. The chapter is also showing farmers other ways to make a living. Growing corn and soybeans or raising cattle and hogs isn't the only way to earn income. The FFA chapter is helping the community change its agricultural base by demonstrating alternative sources of income."

Kinner says the Elkton mushroom business developed quickly even though many of the growers, who are now efficient producers, knew nothing about growing mushrooms before the corporation opened for business. "At first, I think people were a little skeptical to invest in this business," Kinner says. "After all, this was a new agribusiness and nobody knew much about mushroom production. We needed someone to help us get the project off the ground, and the high school FFA chapter should get most of the credit for helping the community learn about mushroom production."

Kelly Kramer (left) and Pat Sullivan harvest mature mushrooms. *Photos by Rural Enterprise*

Getting Involved

Dennis Brenden, the Elkton High School vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor, says several students came up with the idea to construct a special building with a controlled environment and to operate the mushroom production facility. The students were members of a planning committee to determine which project the chapter should choose for the FFA's Building Our American Communities (BOAC) national competition. BOAC is a special project of the National FFA Foundation and is sponsored by RJR Nabisco, Inc.

Once the plans were set, the FFA members presented their idea to the school board, which approved the idea and agreed to use school property for the building site. The school board also loaned the chapter more than $8,000 to begin construction. The chapter would then pay back the loan by selling mushrooms produced at the high school.

"Every member of the chapter knew there was no better way for us to use our time and resources to show the community how to set up an alternative means of earning income. Plus, many of the ag products in the community, such as hay, corn cobs, straw, soybean meal and brewer's grains, were used in the compost to grow mushrooms."

Has the Elkton FFA Chapter's project been a success? Brenden says it has. More than 2,000 people from South Dakota and surrounding states have toured the FFA's production facility. The FFA chapter also attracted the attention of South Dakota's Governor William Janklow and the state's Secretary of Agriculture Marvis Hogan. Both have toured the Elkton High School facility.

Kelly Kramer (left), David Fuhr and Advisor Dennis Brenden have seen the local economy mushroom because of their idea.

National Recognition

In April, 1986, the Elkton Chapter received the state's highest FFA award from the BOAC program and the chance to compete with other states for the national award.

David Fuhr, an Elkton student representing the FFA chapter and Brenden traveled to Washington, D.C., last September to attend the FFA's National Conference on Community Development. Fuhr and Brenden already knew they were one of the top 15 states in the running for the national prize. At the conference, Fuhr was interviewed by BOAC leaders and placed second in the nation. Fuhr received a plaque and check for $750 on behalf of the chapter.

"The project's benefit to the community played an important role in gaining national recognition," Fuhr says. "Our FFA chapter took the initiative and showed people how they could convert en empty building on farms or in villages into an alternative enterprise to supplement their income.

"Our project's long-term goal is to help provide new jobs and income for our community. Hopefully, in the near future, we'll watch people move into our community and prosper."

Students Benefit

"The students handled the whole operation from the start," Brenden says. "We have a student manager, assistant manager, pickers and packers. I rarely go into the building, so the students handle all the day-to-day jobs and decisions. They get to see what it's like to run a business. My students also took care of all the construction details and ordered materials for the building."

Fuhr, who got the job as mushroom production manager after an interviewing process conducted by Elkton FFA Alumni, spends about 25 hours a week running the facility. He is responsible for hiring fellow students to pick and package the mushrooms. He sets up work schedules and keeps most of the business records. He also escorts visitors through the business. Along with his assistant manager, Fuhr also works closely with the Elkton Mushroom Corporation to learn how to become an expert in growing mushrooms.

Fuhr is also responsible for submitting monthly reports on production and sales to the Elkton School Board and to the weekly newspaper, *The Elkton Record*. Many residents of the community follow the high school's mushroom reports to learn new production methods. Many also use the reports to gauge how well their own facilities are doing. Fuhr says producing mushrooms has turned out to be the easy job. Planning the building and setting up the business were the toughest jobs. Fuhr estimates students worked 850 hours to get the operation going.

Some chapter members worked with contractors to dig the sewer and water lines. One crew built forms to lay concrete and put up walls, rafters and siding. Other students visited mushroom production facilities to decide what kind of racks they should construct inside the building.

After the building was constructed, the students also had to make an observation room. The 8-foot by 12-foot observation room is attached to the building, which measures 24-foot by 24-foot and accommodates 240 boxes of compost with pasteurized mushroom spawn. The observation room allows visitors to see the operation without constantly going in and out of the building and disrupting the controlled growing environment.

The FFA chapter is now on its third batch of mushroom boxes. They have improved their yields per box with each new crop. During their first trial run, the students harvested 14 pounds per box. They hope to improve their yield to 20 pounds per box with their present batch.

Building the Community

"Most of the kids from the community come from farm families and they realize that alternative income sources are important to their future economic well-being," Brenden says. "These kids like their community and many plan to stay after they graduate from high school or college. This project has done one very important thing for the community. It has taught students how to approach and set up an alternative business. It will also stimulate other kinds of alternative enterprises.

"The mushroom project also taught the students that they don't have to be an important business leader or pillar of the community to make a contribution to the community. The students learned that they could make a difference in the community by pooling their resources and working hard together." •••

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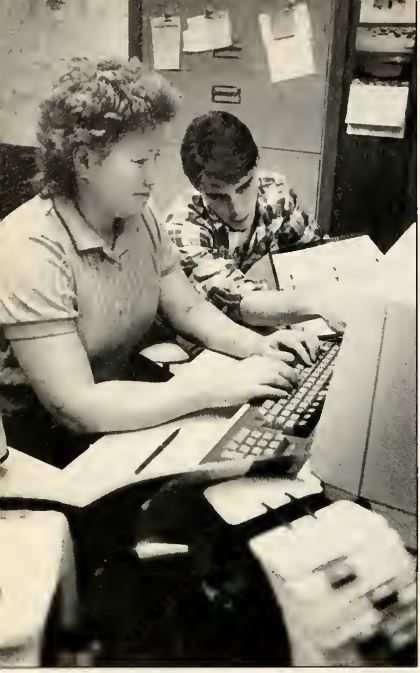

Van helps Fran Seimen work the bugs out of the Auburn Animal Clinic's computer.

Watch Van Go!

Salesman, teacher, communicator—Van Zander combines all three to be successful in today's high-tech world of agriculture.

By Sue Miller

BENEATH Van Zander's sheepish grin is a computer salesman/instructor/programming wizard/soccer coach/TV personality waiting to get out. If you've heard of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, or that some things are as different as night and day, then you know Van Zander. A native of Topeka, Kansas, this 18-year-old Washburn Rural High School senior has a lot to offer and it's all gifted.

"Van has the unique ability to communicate with all people on all levels," says Web Garlinghouse, president of National Electronic Type, Inc. and Van's boss for the last year. If that isn't enough, this all-American-looking student knows enough about computers to be classified as a computer whiz kid. So, which is it? A career in agricultural politics or computer entrepreneur?

According to his teachers and employers, either is possible. "With his computer knowledge, Van helped me learn how to use our school computers. "He could teach most teachers—and has," says Washburn Rural vo-ag teacher Leroy Russell.

He discovered computers by playing with one at school while he sat out of sixth grade gym class because of an illness. Using this early knowledge of computer technology, Van recalls his freshman Supervised Occupational Experience Program project in the family business. "I did business work on the Auburn Animal Clinic computer for my father. It ranged from the programming of billing, inventory and accounting files to utilizing an easy spreadsheet calendar program that kept track of artificial insemination data for dairy cattle. But my dad didn't want to pay me much so I decided I wanted to do something else."

Van the Salesman

Van believes the first step in being a good salesman is the ability to sell yourself. "Trying to sell yourself when you are 16, going against someone who's 30 is hard. I learned that even the clothes you wear can be a determining factor in making a sale."

He explains, "If I wear a suit, then I come across like I'm a little kid playing big people's games. The other extreme is to wear blue jeans and a T-shirt, but then people think, 'Young punk kid, I'm not going to listen to him.'" Van's conclusion, "I've learned it's a compromise between being a young punk kid and being the Michael J. Fox of whatever it is you're doing."

Van's advice to students? "Learn to sell yourself, whatever that's going to be." Although he has gained valuable experience through trial and error, he attributes much of his success to learning how to observe. "I watched as people were making a sale and took as much in as fast as I could. You don't learn that from school, you learn most of this stuff on your own. Once you learn how to observe, then you have it down."

Van works part-time at Thoroughbred Computer Systems where he clocks 20 hours a week selling software and equipment after school. Van's boss, Mitch Miller, describes why Van has made a name for himself in the community. "Knowing about software is good. Knowing about the technical aspects of computers is great. But putting it all together with a good head for business is a rarity, especially for someone Van's age." Van feels the mix of his technical and business knowledge has been the key factor in his overall business success.

Understanding business's bottom line gives Van an edge. "Obviously the goal is for the company to make money and for me to help people. I'm just the middle man. It's going to make money and I keep the people happy. And that's the key. The company makes more money in the long run because if the customers

Van's fascination with electronics was boosted when he started interfacing computers.

Van sells computer hardware and software at Thoroughbred Computer Systems in Topeka.

Photos by Andrew Markwart

are happy, they'll come back."

Van the Teacher

Van finds dealing with customers both challenging and rewarding. He especially enjoys helping people who are unfamiliar with computers get over their fear of breaking something. Or as Van explains, "the other side of the coin was explaining to farmers that computers are a little bit more delicate than a plow." He understands learning about computers can be scary, but says, "Trying to find descriptive terms that people can relate to and understand is just as difficult." Fran Siemen, office manager at the Auburn Animal Clinic and one of Van's pupils, is confident of Van's teaching abilities. "I knew nothing about computers until Van taught me how to use one when we computerized the animal clinic records. He not only has a lot of patience, he knows how to teach and put computers into terms people, like myself, can understand."

One such example is when Van was trying to describe to a farmer how a computer works mechanically. He recalls saying, "It sort of works like a record player—yeah, a record player. The computer reads a disk like a needle reads the lines on a record. Well, not really, but sort of." The farmer promptly replied, "Does it, or does it not, work like a record player?" Another typical reaction has been "So what makes you think you know this? I've been farming for 45 years and you're trying to tell me..."

Van assures the farmer, "First of all, you're right. You've been farming for 45 years and this is not going to save your farm. You turn a computer on and off just like a TV. It's not going to do the work for you." Van explains that computers are to be used only as a tool. "It's going to help you do things faster and better than you've ever done before and maybe never considered." Van says he has learned is that "It's a lot easier to sell a product if you believe in it."

Movement is what Van Zander is all about. Whether it's educating people in selecting the right computer or being around home, the motion never stops. Van tells why: "Our family is always on the go. With two younger brothers at home, a father that is a veterinarian and a mom that actively involved in the community as a child advocate, I've been brought up that way."

"He could teach most teachers—and has," —Van's vo-ag teacher Leroy Russell.

Van stays busy, but not with the usual high school activities. He recently met the producer/director of a Wichita television station at a junior leadership dinner and ended up sitting at the same table. Before the night was over, Van had landed a spot doing Boys State commercials for the station. Last year Van received the Outstanding Citizen award as a Kansas Boys State delegate and has been asked to return this year as counselor. He also is representing the state of Kansas, along with Kansas Attorney General Robert Stephan and Governor Mike Hayden, in several FFA radio educational public service announcements that air on local radio stations.

This fourth-year honors student is also no stranger to academic excellence. Capturing the Outstanding Math and Science student award this year entitles him to a Kansas State University scholarship. He is also senior class representative to student council and vice president of the school spirit club. The 1986 National Computers in Agriculture award winner will be spending his summer at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, as an intern for this year's conference, sponsored by Agri-Data Resources, Inc.

So between cutting radio and TV tapes, going to class, preregistering for college, working two jobs, coaching a soccer team for 9-10-year-olds on Saturdays, and trying to graduate, Van plans for the future. Van will be majoring in electrical engineering and computer science at Kansas State University in the fall. "From there, who knows?" says Van, "I'm worred about making it through my first semester of college." •••

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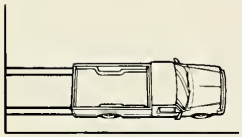

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Now, a major advance in braking control! All big '87 Ford pickups feature rear antilock brakes—designed to help you make straight, smooth stops when traveling in 2-wheel drive. And they're standard equipment!
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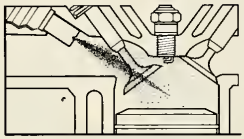

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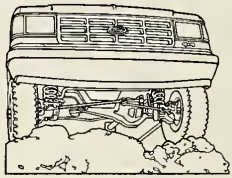

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FORD PICKUP

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Photos by Author

Mike Vickers checks his Orchid Island grapefruit for rust mite.

By Andrew Markwart

It may be the warm Gulf Stream winds or it could be the gray marl soil—rich with millions of crushed seashells. More than likely, it is a combination of both. Whatever the reason, there is something special in a strip of land that runs along Florida's east coast that makes it produce some of the finest oranges and grapefruit in the world.

This is Indian River country. Only fruit grown in certain parts of a five-county area bordering the Indian River are certified to be sold under the Indian River label. All other citrus grown in Florida must be packed under a different name.

An even more difficult label to obtain is that of Orchid Island grapefruit. It is the most exclusive of citrus quality certification. Orchid Island is a small section within the Indian River growing area three miles wide by 30 miles long, famous for the sweetness and size of its grapefruit.

In the center of this distinctive citrus growing area is the community of Vero Beach. It is here, just down the road from where the Los Angeles Dodgers hold spring training, that the Indian River FFA Chapter is holding its own practice, citrus identification, for an upcoming contest.

Wesley's Grove

Under the watchful eye of Advisor Patrick Hiser, an enthusiastic Wesley Davis, chapter vice president and federation president, explains the difference between varieties of oranges as though he was a teacher rather than a student.

Wesley has been leasing 1-1/4 acres of his father's grove for his supervised occupational experience (SOE) program since the summer of 1985. He not only leases the land, but sprayers, pickers and everything else needed to produce a crop of grapefruit.

According to Mr. Hiser, "Wesley's father, Richard, has let him run his own business. He makes his own profits and his own mistakes. They keep very detailed records of things like machinery usage and hours of labor." Through the experience, Wesley has learned first-hand the basics of growing citrus, like how to tell what insect is discoloring his fruit, when to worry about the crop-threaten-

Great Fruit

Indian River FFA members produce and process some of the world's finest citrus.

ing frost and how to bud trees.

Budding is currently the most popular technique to start a new citrus tree (about 95 percent of all new trees in Florida) and Wesley uses it exclusively. The procedure starts by growing a hearty "root stock" usually sour orange, which eventually will be the base and root system of a young tree. The root stock is chosen for its root strength and resistance to disease.

Whether performed in a greenhouse or right in the grove, the method is the same; the base of a leaf cut from a desired citrus tree is inserted in between two small flaps of skin cut on the tender bark of the finger-sized, year-old root stock. Since citrus will bud with any other citrus, there are some unusual trees bearing both oranges and grapefruits scattered in local backyards.

Pests and Drainage

Wesley's classmate Mike Vickers plays a different role in his family's citrus operation. His father and uncle own a 300-acre grove in the Orchid Island growing area. Mike's job is to constantly monitor for pests, such as rust mite, and keep them under control. Mike has to check the groves daily and keep count of how many mites he finds. A rust mite infestation can break out within a week and can ruin an otherwise high quality grapefruit crop.

Mike also regulates the water level in the groves. Because the Orchid Island growing area is practically at sea level, being so close to the Atlantic Ocean, the water needs to be pumped out during the wet seasons.

But because citrus trees need large amounts of water for their fruit, the groves need to be irrigated about as much as they're drained. In the meantime, Mike uses the varied water levels to control mosquito populations. It is a constant balancing act that Mike accepts as the price to pay for being part of the Orchid Island growing area.

The last box of the day; Charles Padgett works at Graves Brothers packing house.

Making the Grade

Of course, Orchid Island and Indian River citrus isn't worth much if it doesn't get graded, packed and marketed to the rest of the country. That is where people like FFA member Charlie Padgett come in. Charlie works for his father, Morris, who is the manager of Graves Brothers packing house just outside of Vero Beach.

At the packing plant, loads of citrus are dumped onto a conveyer where they are washed, pre-graded, scrubbed, rinsed, treated with fungicide, dried, polished, waxed and graded again.

From there, the fruit is boxed and shipped throughout the United States and the world through brokers and buyers. Because of Orchid Island's premium quality, it isn't unusual for a single grapefruit to sell in Japan for over $18 each.

Why would anyone spend that much money on a single piece of fruit? The proof is under the peel. •••

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Young Auctioneer's Calling Came Early

Garren Walrod started auctioning when he was 6 and was competing in a world championship by 11.

By Warren Walker

SOME teenagers like to sleep late on their birthday. Others prefer staying out late with friends. Garren Walrod preferred to spend his 17th birthday in a different pursuit.

Rising early on a recent Saturday morning, he cheerfully observed his birthday by going to work. Holding a microphone in one hand while pointing out bidders with the other, he called out prices in confident cadence to a captive audience.

Walrod, still a high school junior in Mound City, Kansas, has as much experience in the auction ring as men two or three times his age. This year he will celebrate his 11th anniversary as a livestock auctioneer.

"I got started as an auctioneer when I was six years old," he said, as if it were nothing unusual. "My father is the owner of the sale barn in Fort Scott. He often took me with him to the regular Saturday sale."

Garren would watch with wonder while a room full of people shouted and waved. Clerks scribbled furiously while ring attendants paraded big, muscular animals across the sand. Cattlemen of all shapes, ages and sizes had come from miles around just to be in this room for this event. And at the focus of all that activity, all the excitement and attention, was one man—the auctioneer.

Little Garren admired the influence the auctioneer had over the crowd, the animals, the staff. He was fascinated by the strange lilting speech pouring from the man's lips. Garren wanted to know what it felt like to control such respect.

"They didn't know I had any interest in it," remembered Garren. "I talked to my dad about it a couple of times and one day he gave me a chance."

In 1976, his father Bob finally gave him the spotlight. Near the end of one trading session, the regular auctioneer stepped aside and let Garren auction off the last two cattle.

"I was pretty nervous the first time," Garren said, "but they realized I was taking the job seriously."

Sale barn staff members were impressed by how professionally such a young lad handled himself. He was asked back to the microphone with increasing regularity. Garren quickly became popular as a novelty with the local cattlemen. "I guess about the time I was 10 years old or so, I became the regular weekly auctioneer."

Photo by Drovers Journal

Garren Walrod taking bids in Fort Scott, Kansas.

Garren began collecting cassette tapes of professional auctioneers, and listened to them the way other young men listen to music. "I have had other auctions mail me tapes. I've written to auctioneers all around the country. I have tapes in my collection from Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, California...I have tapes from the last three years of the national auctioneering contest finals. When I'm sitting around with nothing else to do, or out driving the car, I listen to the tapes."

In 1981, at the age of 11, Garren became the youngest person ever to appear in the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship. Held that year in St. Paul, Minnesota, the annual contest featured over 100 of the most respected auctioneers in the country.

Garren took home no awards from the event, but is proud just to have been included among such a prestigious few. He was unable to return to the national competition in subsequent years. The year after his performance in St. Paul, new rules were established placing a minimum age of 18 for competition. "I don't think they changed the rules because of me. There had been several people in the contest under 18." A year remains before he can enter again, but he will be ready.

In the meantime, Garren continues to add to his experience. Several times he has been asked to serve as auctioneer at private production sales, where bidding can run into many hundreds of dollars. "I once sold an animal for $6,000 at a registered Longhorn sale in Oklahoma."

Garren's ambition led him to honors in both 4-H and FFA. He currently serves as eastern region director of the 900-member Kansas Junior Livestock Association.

Clearly, Garren Walrod is a young man fated for success. His reputation and popularity rival those many years his senior. Right now Garren has his eyes set on college. "I'd like to get started doing livestock judging," he said. "It sure would be nice if I could get a scholarship somewhere."

With the hard work and promise he's shown in his scant 17 years, there is little doubt he'll get it. •••

Condensed and Reprinted from The Drovers Journal.

The New Ag Professionals: Chemical Sales

By Sue Miller

MARILYN Artz remembers sitting around the dining room table with a group of FFA members trying to schedule projects and fairs. However, this wasn't a chapter meeting, it was a family discussion. Growing up with 14 brothers and sisters on a 3,000-acre grain, fruit and vegetable farm in Antler, North Dakota, Artz says FFA played a big part in her high school days. Now when she discusses agriculture over breakfast, it's usually in a small country kitchen restaurant with a group of local farmers.

A sales representative for Monsanto Agricultural Company, Artz travels a two-county area near Spokane, Washington. As she calls on farmers and retailers, she helps link the two with information about the company's herbicides, pesticides and insecticides. Informing farmers and local elevator and cooperative managers about her company's products is a year-long process and Artz says it is a hectic cycle. "In January and February we have grower meetings where we discuss products, application rates and techniques, and I can inform them about new products. Then making field recommendations follows in March through May."

In early spring, you'll find her doing product test plots and test plot tours that extend through May, June and July. Artz explains, "This is when we check the fields for the response to the different products applied. Then in August and September, when the farmers are finishing up in the fields, I call on those who have complaints or questions." The year finishes with trade shows featuring agricultural products, merchandise and information about new and upcoming trends in agriculture. After the trade shows, she says, "Then you repeat the cycle again. It's a lot of traveling and a lot of long hours."

There are advantages to sales though, Artz quickly adds, "For instance, there is freedom with this job. No one is looking over my shoulder, so I have the freedom to be creative and innovative in how I sell our products. I also like working with farmers."

However, being a sales representative is not for everyone. Artz tells what it takes to get the job done right. "To be a good sales representative it helps to be open-minded, outgoing, have a good sense of marketing and a love for dealing with people." But sales is a universal language says Artz, "You're selling no matter what business you're in—banking, medicine, or farming—whether it's an idea, a concept or a product."

Artz uses her FFA background everyday as a sales representative.

To be a sales representative, Artz went through seven months of training that included classes and on-the-job training under the watchful eye of an experienced salesman. During her training and in her sales experiences today, she finds herself drawing from her FFA background.

"To be a good sales representative it helps to be open-minded, outgoing, have a good sense of marketing and a love for dealing with people."— Marilyn Artz

She credits public speaking and parliamentary procedure contests for her ability to run successful grower meetings and to address a prospective buyer with confidence. Whether it's speaking to a group of 200 or just one farmer, she has to be able to think on her feet. These communication and business skills helped her achieve her goals of receiving her American Farmer degree, a national proficiency award and a state office.

Working with the Washington Conference Program as a counselor, Artz helped younger members set their own goals. Her advice to members is to use the skills learned through FFA to work toward these goals. "I encourage members considering college, or students already in college, to be aware of what future employers think are important." A few of these points are:

- Number one, I think grades are important but they are not everything.
- Future employers look at what else you've done. Activities are very important. Whether it is your supervised occupational experience program, social clubs or leadership groups in high school or at the college level, all will really help you become a more rounded, marketable person.
- If you would like to work for a national company, such as Monsanto, you have to be open to the idea of moving away from your home. You can always come back, but you have to be willing to move.

Artz stresses these three ideas when talking to younger members and says, "Don't forget to challenge yourself. Go somewhere and try somthing new." As one of 15 children, finding something new for Artz has meant taking a challenging sales job that moved her away from her family's dining room table. •••

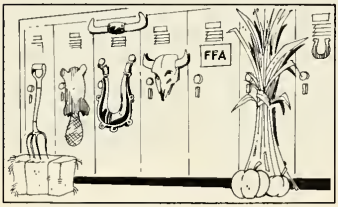
Chapter Scoop

All candidates for office in the **Agua Fria,** AZ, Chapter are interviewed by a nominating committee before they can be elected.

Need ideas for BOAC projects? **Iowa** FFA Association has compiled a list of the community development projects of its chapters. If your chapter would like a copy of this list, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to BOAC Ideas, National FFA Magazine, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

National President *Kevin Eblen* spoke at the **Blairs,** VA, Chapter banquet.

Four FFA members in **Pitsburg,** OH, were teammates on the 1987 Ohio single A district championship basketball team—seniors *Chad Kreitzer* and *Craig Unger* and juniors *Jeff Lutz* and *Kevin Ressler.*



In order to get publicity for the FFA, the **Southwestern** Chapter members in Hazel Green, WI, made locker decorations to mark their school lockers.

Haven't heard of many FFA Week activities tying in with George Washington's birthday, but **Montello,** WI, served cherry pie for faculty. They also organized a poster contest for elementary children.

Kendall, NY, Chapter used FFA Week as their date to send a load of hay to the **South Rowan** Chapter in NC.

When faculty came for breakfast during FFA Week at **Concordia,** KS. Chapter members also gave them a tour of the new greenhouse.

Highmore, SD, showed auto safety slides to the entire student body.

Collinsville, OK, joined with the Alumni to have a pie sale before the local livestock show. A big crowd from the community turned out for it and they raised over $2,500 selling 51 pies. The funds will be used for a chapter barn.

Antelope, AZ, Chapter organized a visitation team to call on local grade schools to promote vo-ag and FFA. Team includes some of the junior officers, some chapter officers and the SOEP chairman.

Salem, MO, Chapter video taped the FFA television special "Hidden Harvests" for those students who were unable to see it the first time. It will also be useful at other events.

Hunterdon Hills FFA in New Jersey held a full schedule of FFA Week activities including flag-raising ceremonies at school and mailing an annual FFA newsletter explaining the chapter's activities.

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture *Sam Brownback,* former National FFA Officer, was kickoff speaker for the **Kaw Valley,** KS, FFA Week celebration. Following his talk to FFA he conducted an open forum with area farmers and agribusiness leaders.

The winning team of *Alan Schimming* and *Advisor Schneider* won the euchre (it's a card game) tournament after the **Genoa,** OH, Chapter meeting in March.

Guest speaker during FFA Week at the **Ysleta,** TX, FFA Week open house was Indiana farmer Gene Scanlen. He spoke to the members and guests about the importance of farmers to the nation.

The president, vice president and Greenhand secretary of the **Butler,** MO, gave presentations to the Rotary during FFA Week.

The **Rhea County,** TN, Chapter's ag shop has developed quite a reputation. It was put into emergency service to raise 25 chickens, 2 calves and a duck.

Members of the **Northeast Jones** FFA, Laurel, MS, are looking forward to the rebuilding of their ag department and school—it was wiped out by a tornado.

With funds earned from a haunted house project at Halloween, the **Lexington,** TN, FFA provided a shopping spree for underprivileged kids in the county.

Valley FFA in Gilcrest, CO, organized a weight guessing contest for the student body to enter. They had to guess the weight of a pig, steer, chicken, lamb and a tractor.

Coconut Creek FFA in FL planted seven hibiscus trees at the elementary school in memory of the seven Challenger astronauts who died in 1986.

Prairie Central, IL, FFA and their Alumni affiliate will sell turkey sandwiches for lunch and pork chop dinners in the evening to the crowds at the community farm and home show.

Miller City, OH, members removed 68,000 laying hens from a local farmer's facility according to Reporter *Brian Inkrutt.*

The **Bruceton,** WV, Chapter had a hay bale throwing contest after a chapter meeting. *Eddie Keller,* the winner, may be tough to find since the prize was an FFA camouflage hat.

Pinedale, WY, organized a blood drive and collected over 14 gallons. The project attracted many walk-in donors.

Cindy Fannon is president of the **Randolph-Henry** High School FFA in Charlotte Court House, VA. Her sister *Laurie* is in eighth grade and is president of the **Central Middle School** Chapter. Two presidents in one family—not bad.

Scotty Long reports that the **Cottonwood,** AL, Chapter is raising and lowering the flag every day at school.

Many chapters are regulars at sending in news and reports of events. That's great. But don't sit by and let your chapter name go unmentioned in this "hot" news feature in the magazine.

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Americans At Their Best.

Collegiate FFA and Hortus Society President Lynnette Brubaker with members Bill Largo, left, and Tom Cartwright.

Taking Charge

Lynnette Brubaker is a driving force behind New Jersey's FFA machine.

A LOT of members think their involvement in FFA has to end when they graduate from high school. According to Lynnette Brubaker, Rutgers University's collegiate FFA president, it's just the beginning.

Besides serving as H.O. Sampson Collegiate FFA Chapter President, Lynnette works in the New Jersey state FFA office as public relations coordinator during the school year at Cook College, the agricultural college at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. For the past two years, she has also trained New York's state officers for their summer camp seminars.

With all of those FFA responsibilities, not to mention the other clubs she is in, this agricultural science senior and honors scholar has been able to maintain a 3.4 grade point average while taking a heavy classload of 16 credits per term.

How does one person excel at all of these activities, most of them at the same time? Energy is the answer. "I don't worry about a lot of things because it's a waste of my energy," she says. "We don't have that much energy to be wasted, so I use it very efficiently."

It is that energy, that enthusiasm, that people are attracted to when they meet Lynnette. Her boss at New Jersey's state FFA office, Program Specialist Nancy Schnetzer, says that energy, coupled with strong communication skills are the key factors in Lynnette's success.

"Students will call with a question and ask specifically for Lynnette. She is well-known with the members, and they look up to her," said Schnetzer. As public relations coordinator, Lynnette writes news releases that go to 50 newspapers in New Jersey, submits small articles and photos to *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine, distributes FFA's video public service announcements, makes arrangements for visiting national officers and works with agriculture teachers, supplying materials available from the state office.

When she isn't working or at class, Lynnette's energy is channeled into a number of clubs and activities, especially the collegiate FFA chapter. She is president of the chapter which didn't exist at Cook College when she arrived there as a freshman.

She found that a chapter had existed at one time, but it had been dormant for many years. Lynnette's reaction was, "I'm new here, and I don't want to step on anybody's toes, but let's do something!" and she did.

Lynnette didn't let old rules stand in her way, either. "Before, it (the chapter) had only been for the ag education majors. I had no intention of being an agricultural educator, but I still wanted to be in this club because I loved FFA." With a small, but dedicated group of five members, she was elected vice president her freshman year.

Since that rough beginning, she has served as president for the past three years and membership has grown to over a dozen people.

She says the goal of the chapter is to help out during state FFA activities such as judging contests, leadership conferences and an Ag Field Day, all held at Cook College. "We don't have a lot of money and we're not allowed to spend college funds on the high school students, but with the small manpower we have, we try to give them our time," says Lynnette.

Besides being president of the collegiate FFA chapter, Lynnette is also president of the Hortus Society, the campus horticulture society, and vice president and secretary of Pi Alpha Xi, a national honors fraternity for ornamental horticulture, floriculture and landscape majors.

For the past two years, Lynnette has travelled to upstate New York each summer to train state FFA officers for their summer leadership camps. In contrast to New Jersey's six or seven officers, New York has 17 state officers, which took her by surprise the first year.

She says her experience in New York has paid off back home. "We did a lot of different things last year here in New Jersey because of what I did in New York. It was a good influence." She will return to New York for her third camp this summer.

Lynnette recently decided to pursue her master's degree in extension education, (she has been accepted at Penn State) after graduating from Rutgers this year. She is planning to be a New Jersey extension agent after receiving her master's. That means she will be leaving the New Jersey FFA office, taking her talent and enthusiasm with her. But she is bound to take charge somewhere else.

Mississippi Children's Barnyard Dedicated

Mississippi state officers and Executive Secretary Bill McGrew participated in the Children's Barnyard dedication.

A NEW FFA Children's Barnyard was dedicated to the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum in Jackson, Mississippi, on April 18.

The exhibits are designed to help teach children about agriculture and animals. The Mississippi FFA expects the museum to help the public understand the agriculture industry, emphasizing that food products first come from the farm, not the grocery store.

State FFA officers Ray Nash, Becky Carter, Dawn Scott, David Sullivan, Wayne Thompson, Grant Monroe and Randall Jackson served as hosts to over 3,000 children and parents who visited the barnyard on Easter weekend. Throughout the year FFA chapters will be invited to host the barnyard on special occasions such as the Fourth of July and the annual Harvest Festival.

The permanent exhibit is modeled after the popular State Fair Children's Barnyard which has been sponsored by the FFA for over 13 years. The barnyard is a cooperative effort between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Mississippi FFA Association. The Children's Barnyard is the latest addition to the museum which also includes an 1860-vintage farm, a 1920-era small town, a museum complete with farm equipment and tools from the earliest years of agriculture and agricultural aviation.

Included in the barnyard is a variety of farm animals including horses, cows, sheep, chickens, turkeys, oxen and ducks. The two areas of most interest among the young visitors is the petting area and the chick midway.

Attending the dedication ceremony were Commissioner Jim Buck Ross, Glenn See, state supervisor of Agricultural Education, Bill McGrew, state FFA executive secretary, Tommy Rhodes, museum staff person and a large crowd of FFA and vocational agriculture supporters. •••

Building BRIDGE Scholarships

The new BRIDGE scholarship program is for handicapped FFA members who are planning to attend college and could use some financial assistance.

On the next page is a story about Don Hayden, an experienced mountain climber and quadriplegic. Don also is former FFA state vice president from Washington and is a member of the BRIDGE scholarship selection committee.

If you would like to help an inspiring person like Don go to college, you or your chapter can contribute to the BRIDGE scholarship fund by sending your contribution to the National FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, WI, 53705-0117. Please make checks payable to The National FFA Foundation.

Be sure to include your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code with your contribution. If you would like more information about the scholarship, call the Foundation at 608-238-4222. •••

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Don Hayden, in his custom-made sled, challenges Mt. Rainier. The sled is a plastic 55-gallon drum sawed in half.

Conquering More Than Mount Rainier

Don Hayden and friends faced over 14,000 feet of frigid, steep climbing; nobody was along for the ride.

By Price Grisham

Beautiful from a distance, Washington's Mt. Rainier.

"BLIZZARD—Avalanche." During that long April morning, those words kept gnawing at the mothers of four FFA mountain climbers.

Everyone realized that Washington's Mount Rainier is 14,410 feet of pure physical and mental challenge under the best of circumstances; but during the severe weather of April 14-17, that challenge was transformed into danger.

"I trust my son, that's the important thing, so I tried not to worry," said Jeanette Hayden patiently waiting for the return of her son, Don. After all, Don had grown up in nearby Ashford, a town overshadowed by Mount Rainier, the nation's fourth tallest mountain. An experienced climber at the age of 19, he had recently scaled halfway up the mountain with several climbing companions.

But Don Hayden is no ordinary mountain climber. Six years ago, in a split-second diving accident, Don's life switched from an outstanding athlete to that of a quadriplegic, with no use of his legs and only limited use of his arms and torso.

Teamwork

With Don being towed in a home-made sled and snow storms battering the crew, how did the four young men climb the mountain?

"Teamwork, pure and simple," explained Don after the 9,000-foot climb. "We were roped together for security, with a good bit of slack in the rope for mobility. I could pull myself along in my fiberglass sled with my ice axe for a good ways. But if I slipped or rolled off-balance, those guys had to be there, or I was a goner."

Each team member made a vital contribution in helping Don become the first quadriplegic to seriously challenge Mount Rainier.

"Kenny Hilliker was the leader and made the final decisions," said Don. "He can get that extra 10 percent out of you when you think you've already given 100 percent—he brings out the best in folks. Mike Chafe provided the solid physical strength and experience we needed and kept our determination from drooping. Bob Henricksen, although fairly new at climbing, more than pulled his share and kept us going with a really infectious enthusiasm," said Don of his climbing companions.

And Don himself?

"Don provided the drive and cohesiveness for the climb. We all knew that he would pull his own weight as much as he could. He'd been working out through physical therapy and it really paid off. You just can't go on a climb like this and not be in shape," said team leader Kenny Hilliker.

What thought kept the four adventurers going? Publicity? Fame?

"Hot tubs!" they agreed, as they pinched their noses and laughed. "After more than two days at hard climbing on the mountain, we really smelled bad," said Don. "And with winds whipping at 60 miles per hour in below-freezing temperatures, you better believe we were cold."

But underneath the jokes about body odor and bad cooking was the memory of dealing with a crisis situation on the mountain.

Whiteout!

Just before a dangerous whiteout (a weather condition where strong winds whip snow through the air, creating a blinding effect), the climbers had built ice walls for protection from the wind and hunkered down in their tent. They used a small camp stove to cook freezed-dried food.

Tired climbers: (from left) Mike Chafe, Kenny Hilliker, Don Hayden and Bob Hendrickson.

Photos by Bob Hendrickson

"When we saw massive sheets of ice and snow slicing from the mountain, we knew it was time to get off fast. We were there for the challenge, but not to risk any lives," explained Mike Chafe.

"Getting off the mountain was almost as scary as the approaching whiteout," said Don. "I was zipping down in my fiberglass sled—at what seemed like 70 miles an hour! And the only brakes it had were Kenny, Mike, Bob and my ice axe. I was afraid that I might pull them off balance. We did just miss our goal of reaching Camp Muir (at the 10,000-foot level), but at least we were alive."

"When we saw massive sheets of ice and snow slicing from the mountain, we knew it was time to get off fast. We were there for the challenge, but not to risk any lives."—Mike Chafe

Why did they do it?

"We achieved our purpose—that of preparing for the summit in July and bringing some publicity to the BRIDGE program," explained Don. "We've been planning to climb Rainier for about two years. I've always wanted to do it.

"Although I want to spotlight the new FFA scholarship/outreach program for the rural handicapped, I didn't really set out to 'prove' anything. I've always been fiercely independent. My diving accident honestly didn't slow me down. When I saw other folks in the hospital feeling sorry for themselves, I decided I didn't have time for that. After eight hours of physical therapy a day, the nurses would find me back in the weight room in the evening.

"Even though it took a couple of years to realize I'd never walk again, I really can't think of one thing my friends do that I don't, and I'm fortunate enough to have friends who've played a tremendous part in my attitude."

Don's aggressive personality has paid off in FFA, too. He was a Washington state vice president in 1985 and held offices of district and chapter president.

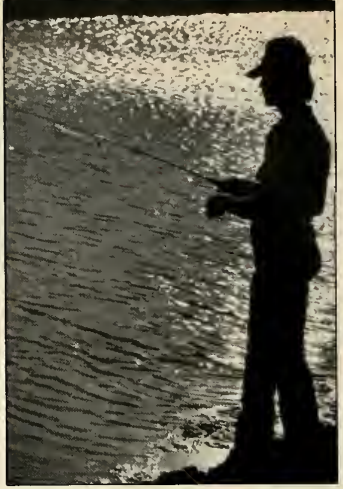
"All of us were in FFA and it was through my advisor Bob Brown (of Eatonville High School) that I learned both the competitiveness to set high goals and the patience to achieve them. My mistakes don't teach me not to try—they teach me to try differently," explained Don, proudly holding the FFA plaque presented at the press conference for the returning climbers. •••

EDITOR'S UPDATE: Don Hayden and his team successfully reached Camp Muir (10,088 feet) on another ascent April 27. The climbers were caught in an avalanche during their descent, but only minor injuries resulted. During the climb, the team suffered from serious dehydration and sunburn, but two more excursions to Camp Muir are planned before June.

Pond Management Tips Fish Scales

Keeping track of populations, species and forage can turn your pond into a fishing hot spot.

By Russell Tinsley



Largemouth bass do best when stocked in larger ponds. *Photos by Author*

As most readers of this magazine know, ponds serve a purpose other than watering livestock or irrigation. They grow fish in both numbers and size.

According to Malcolm C. Johnson, III, a pond-management specialist, a pond is somewhat like a field. "You don't plant some seeds without any preparation and leave it to the whims of nature and expect the field to produce," he explained.

"Overfishing, keeping every fish soon after a pond has been stocked, will result in a population imbalance because fast-reproducing sunfish, when left unmolested, will soon overpopulate," Johnson added. "At the same time, not fishing a pond will result in an overpopulation of bass and eventually stunted fish."

He said a trained professional should be consulted when a pond is being built. The right design will go a long way toward creating a quality fishery. Other than private companies, know-how in the form of advice and literature is available from the local Soil Conservation Service office or a biologist with the state fish and game department.

Once the pond is completed and fills with water, it needs to be stocked. The tendency with most pond owners is to put in too many fish.

"For bass, a pond really needs to be more than an acre in size, preferably three acres or larger, to get desirable results," Johnson went on. "Channel catfish do best in the smaller ponds."

Either channel catfish or bass are stocked along with other fish, to provide the food chain required to keep the body of water healthy. Bass ponds normally are stocked with bluegill sunfish.

Other supplemental species are threadfin shad and golden shiners, to increase forage, and redear sunfish to prevent bluegill overpopulation. What mix of species to use is best left to the advice of a fisheries biologist.

Catfish can be sustained with commercial food pellets containing at least 30 percent protein and fed every day, either manually or with a battery-powered feeder, as a person would raise and feed livestock (sometimes feeding results in unsatisfactory production). A regular feeding program of enriched food can result in one pound of fish gain for every two pounds of food.

An alternative is to stock fathead minnows along with catfish. As catfish reach about two pounds in size they are able to utilize fish as food, if they can catch it. Slow-swimming fathead minnows are easily caught and multiply well.

In a properly managed pond you can catch more and bigger fish.

Once the pond is stocked, the fish—bass especially—need to be left alone to grow and fully utilize the forage that has been introduced. If too many juvenile bass are removed and predator pressure relaxed, the sunfish will enjoy a population explosion. After the bass become about a foot long, sexually mature, some of them can be kept, with those left to replenish the supply with baby bass. "A pond owner can maintain quality by establishing a slot limit," Johnson explained. "With a 14-18 slot, for example, fishermen can keep any bass shorter than 14 inches, any longer than 18. Larger bass are the most efficient predators and spawners. And if you release a six-pounder, he might weigh eight pounds the next time you catch him. Managing a pond for trophy fish is different than managing for numbers. The pond owner has to make a choice."

Most ponds, though, are not new; they are aging and need rehabilitation. Many owners think the way to do this is to chemically treat the pond, eradicate the fishes, and start over. Johnson's experience tells him this only should be a last resort, for three reasons: it will take a couple of years before the fish grow large enough to catch; rotenone is expensive; and rotenone rarely does a complete job which leaves undesirables such as bullheads to take over.

A better plan is to remove some of the bass, especially the smaller ones which are most abundant, and provide adequate forage for the survivors to eat. This means stocking more preyfish such as bluegills and maybe minnows.

While bass need nourishment to survive and grow, the same is true with this smaller forage species. To keep the fishery robust, clear-water ponds should be treated with commercial inorganic fertilizer. This puts a "bloom" (plankton) in the water—the top of the food chain to sustain the forage species.

Although bass will reproduce naturally in a pond, catfish will not, unless spawning devices are provided. Catfish reproduction should never be encouraged, however, successful spawning will result in too many fish. Keep count of catfish caught and once 50 percent of the pond's population has been depleted, restock with the same number as removed. This way you keep a good mix of both larger and smaller specimens.

"The beauty of a pond is it can be managed for fishing over the long haul," Johnson said, further. "You can consistently catch not only more fish but bigger fish." •••

FFA In Action

National President Kevin Eblen spoke to Todd Pugh and Jerry Lovell, both of Kinta, and Andree Morris, Bokchito, at the ninth annual Sophomore Motivational Workshop.

National Officer Action Update:

The snow that so rarely falls in Oklahoma threatened to stop travel in and out of the state. The Will Rogers' Airport in Oklahoma City was closed for the first time in history. But the weather could not dampen the spirits of the more than 900 sophomore FFA members that attended Oklahoma's ninth annual Sophomore Motivational Conferences.

Under the direction of three National FFA Officers and the state FFA officers, these members were encouraged, through both general and small group sessions, to set goals for their next two years in the organization.

"The conferences are geared toward sophomores because Oklahoma has many FFA activities for Greenhands," said Terri Lynn Hames, Oklahoma Association president. "The sophomore year is the toughest for most members as they struggle to compete with the upperclassmen. We hope that the conferences will encourage them to keep working toward their goals."

The January conferences are held in each of the five FFA districts in Oklahoma and members are encouraged to wear official FFA dress for the meeting.

In addition to the student conferences, the national and state FFA officers met with the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education and with the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate. This year there was a special meeting with the chairman of the House Education Committee.

Besides National President Kevin Eblen, Daren Coppock, western region vice president and Dean Harder, central region vice president, attended. *(Shelly Peper, Assistant* Outlook *Editor)*

Winter Doldrum Remedy

The North Crawford Chapter of Gays Mills, Wisconsin, teamed up with the local FHA chapter this February to help stave off the cabin fever associated with long northern winters by sponsoring an all-school talent show. The show, Trojan Talent Search '87, was a huge success and the two groups plan to make it an annual affair.

The goal was to have fun and get the whole school (190 students) involved. Talent categories were very open and flexible to encourage participation. The show included forensic presentations, juggling, ventriloquism, standup comedy and vocal and instrumental music solos and groups. The show was video taped and watching the "rerun" was as much fun as the original. The chapter advisor plans to put the tape in a safe place and bring it out for reunions.

As part of the talent search a T-shirt design contest was also held several weeks before the show. The top ten entries were voted on by the student body, a winner selected and eight dozen shirts were ordered and sold. The shirts are now a popular collector's item.

Although not designed as a fund raiser, the talent show generated a modest profit of $125. The committee is considering two options for spending the money—offering scholarships to talent show participants to some of the numerous summer camps on music, theater or other talent-related field; or taking everyone who was in or helped on the production to a play. *(Eric Anderson, Reporter)*

Mom's Night

The Kuna, Idaho, FFA used a spring chapter meeting to honor the mothers of the chapter members. The chapter decided it was time to do something for the moms.

To start the meeting off, each mother was introduced and given a carnation by her son or daughter.

After this, we had a series of chapter reports to update the chapter's mothers on the latest activities.

After the reports, mothers were treated with a floriculture demonstration by Holly Smith and Lisa Brown, two of our national contest floriculture team. They made a dish garden and a corsage. These items were raffled off to the mothers along with an African Violet plant, a set of china and an electric can opener. *(Mike Lane)*

An Island Get-Away

Each summer the Verdigre FFA Chapter in Nebraska holds an annual summer campout for a major recreational activity. The campout is held in July on a seven-acre island on the Niobrara River.

The campout is first organized by the chapter's recreational committee and then the date chosen for the campout is put on the summer activity calendar and sent to all the members. When the day for the campout arrives, members and advisor meet at the ag room and load the school van with camping supplies and gear.

Then we're off on our 28-mile trek to the campsite which is located on one of our member's grandparents' farm. Once we reach the farm we unload all of our gear and put it into a wagon hitched to a tractor since you can't drive a car to the campsite. We have to cross creeks and swampy ground, but we don't mind

(Follow the Action to Page 34)

because it makes getting to our destination even more fun!

When we finally reach the campsite, everything is unloaded and camp is set up. Before any fun activities begin, the chapter holds an informal meeting to discuss summer activities coming up and safety rules of camping.

Now the real fun begins! Swimming in the Niobrara River is lots of fun because the water is the right temperature and is just the right depth. After trying out our swimming skills, the chapter forms teams and we play water soccer and softball on a nearby sandbar.

Soon our energy is drained and we head back to the island for supper. The freshmen members gather up wood for a campfire and we roast hot dogs over the open fire.

By this time, it's getting close to dark and people begin to pull their sleeping bags close to the fire and stories and jokes make their way around the circle. Some members still have lots of energy and so they take another dip in the river. Others try their hand at fishing.

When morning breaks, everyone's up early. It's really pretty along the river at that time of the day. It's cool, calm and peaceful. Once we've all had a filling breakfast and the campsite is cleaned up, it's time to once again load up and head back to civilization. *(Brian Mlady, Reporter)*

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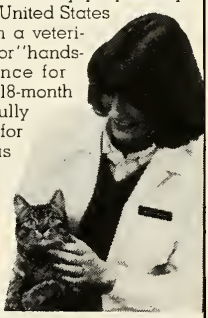

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A Truck Giveaway

A little imagination, a positive attitude and a lot of hard work paid off for the Lakeview, Nebraska, FFA Alumni and Young Farmer Chapter recently. With a little push from their advisor, the two groups entered into a big undertaking by raffling off a Ford Ranger "S" pickup. Everyone pitched in to make this one of the most sucessful social and financial events for both organizations ever held.

They sold 242 raffle tickets at a donation of $50 per ticket. With each ticket, the purchaser received two free steak dinners, a free dance, a chance at ten second prizes (each valued at $100 or more) and above all, a chance at the grand prize—a Ford pickup.

The big night had arrived—December 7. The band was set up and the tables ready. The food was being prepared. Even with slippery roads and the snow falling, 14-ounce New York strip steaks with all the trimmings were served to over 400 persons. Christmas songs followed by dance music led up to the exciting 9 p.m. drawing.

The first ticket drawn was the pickup, however, that ticket was sealed in an envelope and announced last. The ten second-prize winners were drawn for a 13-inch color TV, gas grill, compact microwave, patio glider, 35mm camera, automatic rifle, warmer-cooler, $100 savings bond, $100 shopping spree and a weekend extravaganza at a local motel.

Finally, the winner of the pickup was announced and a very surprised, shocked and happy Dan Donaghue accepted the keys to his new pickup. *(Gary Maricle, Advisor)*

It Was Fun!

A few months ago our ag teacher came up with a new kind of recreational idea for the ag students and members of the Calallen Chapter in Corpus Christi, Texas.

It's called the Agricultural Olympics and the first one was held in March.

It was composed of various events and was open only to the members in our chapter. The events were:

- Horseshoes—normal rules
- Tug-of-war—1,000-pound weight limit and at least two girls on a team
- Hay Hauling—three member team event. The team loads 20 bales of hay into a pickup, drives 100 yards and unloads it in a neat 5-foot high stack. Fastest time wins.
- Wheelbarrow Race—one person, one wheelbarrow. The contestants load and push the wheelbarrow 50 yards through a figure-eight course. Fastest time wins.
- Pig Calling—self-explanatory
- Back-seat Driving—two team members, one drives on a riding lawnmower, blindfolded. (The mower blade is obviously disengaged.) The other team member sits in a wagon in the back of the lawnmower and gives the driver directions through a course. Fastest time wins. One second is added for each marker or obstacle knocked over.
- Grain Scooping—two people, one holder, one scooper. Team scoops up 250 pounds of grain, sacks it and stacks it. Fastest times wins.
- Tractor Pull—5-person team, one girl at least, on a team. Team pulls the tractor which is in neutral, 30 yards forward. Fastest times wins.
- Sack Race—30 yards. Fastest time wins.

Finally, comes the dreaded obstacle course, the most challenging event. This is a timed event with two contestants

Word Contest

The North Crawford Chapter of Gays Mills, Wisconsin, sponsored a unique contest for FFA Week this year.

The chapter offered a cash prize to the person who could make the most words from the letters in the word Agriculture. The limitations were that the words listed had to be found in the dictionary or be a name.

Tammy Courter, a member of the chapter, won the contest by listing 206 words! *(Eric Anderson, Reporter)*

Editors join the chapter in challenging any other members to see if they can top the list. Send your list by July 1, to Word Game, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, listing the words in alphabetical order. We'll report if any one tops 206 in the next issue!—Ed.

Restful, Relaxing Waters

Due to our climate, harvesting wild meadow hay during July and August is the principle activity of many of the members. Because the members work so hard in the summer, the Ruby Mountain, Nevada, Chapter tries to provide recreational opportunities. All of the summer meetings are held on Sundays to allow greater participation. This past summer the chapter hosted a water skiing party at Wild Horse Reservoir tor the three FFA chapters in the county. Past chapter members and alumni members supplied boats and the chapter members brought tood for a barbeque. For several ot the members it was their tirst opportunity to water ski. *(From the National Chapter application)*

running at the same time. Two fastest times advance to the finals. There are boys and girls divisions.

This may not sound exciting to you, but all I know is, it was fun. Everybody had a great time. Refreshments were served all day to everyone. *(Robert Wilson)*

Building Sparks Unity

Members of the Thurmond, South Carolina, Chapter used a BOAC project to bring their three communities together in an effort to improve their school and communities.

Money gifts ranging from $10 to $250 have come in plus others have donated materials that are needed to build an outside student lounge constructed of brick and completely landscaped. The chapter raised $4,500 for the project.

According to Advisor Hugh Bland, "These young people have really surprised the community. All of our members have been involved and have not only raised a lot of money, but also have gained some valuable skills in terms of talking to people."

This project has shown again that BOAC cannot only bring the community closer together, but also involves the chapter.

Printer's Ink

Long before National FFA Week arrived, Jetmore, Kansas, FFA members were busy preparing for the chapter-published special 12-page supplement to our local newspaper.

The chapter reporter puts together the introductory article. Members then filled out questionnaires and had the Jetmore High School newspaper class write other articles about the chapter. The supplement also included a couple of articles supplied by the National FFA Center.

In addition, 12 FFA members sold advertisements to local businesses to cover the publishing expenses. The supplement also included pictures of the chapter's past activities. The supplement came out in the February 19 issue of the *Jetmore Republican.*

Doorstep Garden

The Kingwood, Texas, Chapter recently embarked on their newest endeavor, a large garden planted next to their high school.

Since many Kingwood members have lived in or near the "big city" for a number of years, they have not had the

(Follow the Action to Page 36)

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chance to plant anything on a large scale. To solve this problem and to give students the opportunity to practice what they have studied in the classroom, Advisors Dorman and James are allowing members to plant a large garden right outside the doors of the agriculture department.

Students have fertilized and cultivated the soil and planted broccoli, lettuce, radishes, okra, corn, brussels sprouts plus will add tomatoes, beans and cantaloupes. *(Mindy Gardner, President)*

Decade of State Officer Training In One Family

From the small town of Greensfork, Indiana, the Weiss family has a success story of developing state FFA officers.

Four Weiss brothers have served the state association—Tony, Ben, Greg and Karl. Tony was state vice president at large in 1975-76. Ben was the state secretary in 1977-78. Greg was state treasurer in 1984-85. Karl is now the state vice president, 1986-87.

The Weiss family left to right, Tony, Dad Herb, Greg, Mom Patty, Karl and Ben.

Obviously their parents, Herb and Patty Weiss, were great supporters of their sons' successes through FFA. Mr. Weiss' main concern was that the money and time be used to prepare for a career. After the boys were elected to state offices, Herb and Patty followed them all the way through each office they held.

Mr. Weiss was a four-year member in the FFA himself. Although he never was a state officer, he did participate in the chapter's grain show. He grew up on a dairy farm and "milked cows all of his life."

The decade of Weiss leadership all began with Tony. Tony was chapter president, district vice president, state vice president at large, section Star Farmer and went on the FFA's Work Experience Abroad to Scotland, England and Belgium. Tony had always wanted to be a state officer and he fulfilled his wish. He said, "My high point in the FFA was doing my last state convention." Tony is a graduate of Purdue University and now works for Elanco.

Following Tony was his brother Ben who was chapter president during his junior year. He served twice as district officer—first as treasurer and then president. The next year Ben was elected state secretary. Ben also achieved his goal of receiving the American Farmer degree. Ben is branch manager in Ohio for a local roofing company.

Greg continued the success of the Weiss family as chapter secretary, district vice president, district president and state treasurer. Greg, as a freshman in high school, won fourth place in the state public speaking contest. He is now a student at Purdue University majoring in biology.

Wrapping up the decade of success, the youngest son, Karl, was chapter reporter, chapter president, district secretary and vice president. He is currently serving as the southern region state vice president. At the 1985-86 state convention, he won both extemporaneous speaking and prepared public speaking contests. When Karl finishes his term in office he plans to attend Purdue University and major in engineering.

Tony, Ben, Greg and Karl all started out competing at their chapter level contests. Through hard work, time and dedication, they have accomplished many goals at the state and national levels. *(Don Sturgeon, Hagerstown Advisor)*

High Pressure Games

To kick off National FFA Week, the Soquel, California, Chapter held a cookout for all teachers and staff at the school on Thursday, February 19 during lunch at the agriculture department.

Each table had a centerpiece of flowers which was made by students. The lunch included an all-you-can-eat salad bar and hot dogs.

The main purpose of the barbeque was to introduce the teachers to the agriculture department. Ever since the barbeque, all of the members have been receiving compliments on our barbeque from their teachers.

One FFA Week event, during lunch, was called a "lamb" feeding contest. A team member gets down on his hands and knees and the other has to make him drink half a bottle of soft drink with a nipple on the end of the bottle.

Tuesday's activity was probably the best activity that we had during the whole week. We had a PVC sprinkler pipe connecting contest. There were approximately ten people on each team. Each team had a tower built in front of them, which was made out of various lengths of PVC sprinkler pipe. On the top of the 10-foot tower was a sprinkler head. The first team to disassemble the tower and rebuild it, won. There was one catch though. The team had to get the sprinkler to work for 10 seconds without leaking and without using PVC pipe glue. The local newspaper was also there taking pictures.

On Wednesday, we had a water balloon tossing contest and, on Thursday, we had a sack race.

To end the week, we had a two-person log sawing contest. This was also one of the better activities that we did during the week.

On each day, we gave out different prizes to the winners, and we gave FFA balloons to the losers. We had each one of the agricultural classes choose a day and they had to plan, set up, conduct and give out the prizes for the events. This made a lot less work for the officers, so

Portable Zoo

The Greenville, Ohio, FFA took its portable petting zoo to the Brethren's Home for senior citizens in April. The annual visit included baby chickens, rabbits, lambs, calf, cat and baby pigs. Members Tom Hill, Daryl Benedict and Mike Kosier helped with the project. *(Angie Blocher, Reporter)*

Fun In The "Sun" At An FFA "Beach" Party

The Lancaster, Ohio, FFA Chapter cooperated with the FHA to sponsor a beach party dance to kick off National FFA Week. One hundred fifty students came dressed in their beach clothes to dance and to participate in a giant twister contest, a limbo contest and a hula hoop contest. Tanning sessions and suntan oil, T-shirts and hats were given away in a raffle. *(Liz Bushee, Reporter)*

that they could relax and enjoy the contests too.

Telephone Talk

The Granton, Wisconsin, Chapter took on a special public relations project this spring when they volunteered to answer an entire bank of 16 phones for the Easter Seal Society Telethon on area television.

They also made two 10-second commercials in advance for the telethon. On the telethon they answered the phones from noon until two o'clock. All members were dressed in official dress and they had their FFA sign out front for the entire television audience to see. *(Shelly Garbisch, Secretary)*

Eggs and Bacon Thank You

The Meridian, Idaho, Chapter hosted its annual FFA complimentary breakfast on February 27 from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. in the school vo-ag facility.

The breakfast is sponsored by the chapter with the cooperation of the Meridian Vo-Ag Advisory Council in recognition of National FFA Week.

This activity is one way of saying thank you for support given to the educational process and to the Meridian FFA in the past. We invite local businessmen, Chamber of Commerce members, senior citizens, any former vo-ag student from Meridian, new teachers and all principals. Since there is no scheduled program, those attending may come and leave as they wish. *(Kelley Stevens, Reporter and Shelley Young, Secretary)*

Student Soil Sampler Service

Ivanhoe, Minnesota, has bought a new portable soil sampler in order to help the farmers in their community get accurate tests. The Concord sampler, mounted on the chapter pickup, was given its trial run with Advisor Paluch, kneeling at left; Mike Fogelson, with the controls in the cab; John Fogelson and Bob Lasnetski. The chapter has a cooperative agreement with a local fertilizer dealer to do testing and recover cost of this high tech equipment.

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Joke Page

A motorist was trying to dig his car out of the mud when a pedestrian stopped and asked him, *"Is your car stuck in the mud?"* The tired motorist kept his temper and replied, *"Certainly not. The engine died and I'm digging a grave for it."*

Lisa Sylvester
Whittemore, Michigan

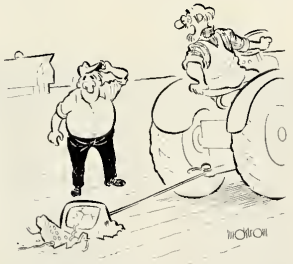
A pat on the back helps to develop character if applied young enough, often enough and low enough.

Andy Murphy
Glencoe, Oklahoma

My husband and I work different shifts and try to schedule appointments so that one of us will be home to care for the children. Recently I left him this note: *"I have a doctor's appointment Thursday at 11. The kids are yours."*

The next morning I found this reply from my brown-eyed spouse: *"I'm so relieved. Their blue eyes had me wondering all these years!"*

Dennis Caron
Litchfield, Minnesota



"You said one of them computers would help my farming, but I've dragged the fields with it once a week and don't see any change."

A friend's teenage daughter had just completed a driver education course. Suddenly, it seemed as if all other motorists did everything wrong. She had become an extremely critical back-seat driver. Finally, her new license arrived and it was her turn behind the wheel. The roads were wet and slippery and when she braked at a stop sign, the car began to slide sideways through the intersection toward a parked car. *"Daddy, what do I do?"* she shrieked.

"Quick, jump in the back seat," her father answered, *"You'll think of something."*

Robert Gray
Reserve, Louisiana

Two fishermen made a bet as to which would catch the first fish. One of them got a bite on his line and got so excited that he fell into the water. *"Oh, well,"* said the other, *"if you're going to dive for them, the bet's off."*

Becky Brand
Keota, Oklahoma

The little daughter of a tire salesman saw triplets for the first time in a newspaper story. *"Oh, Mommy!"* she exclaimed, *"What do you think it says here? It tells about a lady that had twins and a spare."*

Wade Reynolds
Adair, Oklahoma

"I'm in a tough spot," a student told his parents. *"The teacher says I must write more legibly. If I do, she will know I can't spell."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

A seven-foot teenager applied for a summer job as a lifeguard at a neighborhood pool. *"Can you swim?"* he was asked. *"Not very well,"* he replied, *"but I can wade about anywhere."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Teacher: *"What do you use to control the weeds in your vegetable garden?"*

Student: *"We use Roundup and Lasso."*

Teacher: *"I didn't know you could use those herbicides on vegetables. How do you apply them?"*

Student: *"Ma 'rounds up' the hoes and Dad 'lassos' the kids!"*

Derek Etnyre
Thomson, Illinois

An Englishman who was indulging in boasting aroused the ire of a grizzled rancher.

"Queen Victoria touched my grandfather on the shoulder with a sword and made a lord out of him," said the Londoner.

"That's nothing," the ranchman snorted. *"Old Geronimo touched my grandpa on the head with a tomahawk and made an angel out of him."*

James Mings
Harleton, Texas

Two frogs were sitting by a pond catching flies. One frog turned to the other and said *"My, how time's fun when you're having flies."*

Kathy Rousey
Randleman, North Carolina

Charlie, the Greenhand

"So that's what's meant by 'playing the fish.'"

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